

# outta control

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## News & Views of the Belfast Anarchist Collective



'It's the rich what gets the pleasure, it's the poor what gets the blame' ran the refrain of a 19th. century music hall song. That piece of social commentary is as relevant to-day as it was when the lines were penned during the reign of John Brown's friend Queen Victoria. This 'them and us' attitude is perhaps best exemplified by the establishments treatment of their own when they appear in court.

Lord Oaksey, chairman of Malmesbury magistrates, former jockey, and star presenter of ITV's racing coverage,.....knew where his duty lay when the Honorable Sarah Ponsonby appeared before him. She was charged with the possession of 292 cannabis plants found growing

on her Wiltshire home. After pleading guilty, she was fined a desultory £110 (less than 40p. per plant), for possessing resin, the plants, and allowing her home to be used for smoking same.

The leniency of the fines may have less to do with Oaksey's view on hash, than the fact that Princess Margaret and her gardener friend Roddy Llewellyn, were frequent guests at the estate. Could Maggie be the first royal 'dope fiend'? If the fines were taken as a precedent they might have signalled a long overdue change in the spirit, if not the letter of the law as applied to cannabis offences. Unfortunately this is not so....take a recent bust in the less rarefied atmosphere of Antrim..... The drug squad, armed with a warrant and house-breaking paraphenalia stormed into the home of a 32-year old aircraft engineer. They found 6 grammes of cannabis resin and a set of scales. With no friends in court, in any sense of the phrase, he was duly convicted and received a staggering £300 fine and a 3-month recorded sentence. A sentence like this, little short of the maximum for possession, shows how local magistrates are determined to defend the lucrative trade of the socially acceptable 'drug pushers'.... the brewers and publicans.

*If you are in need of help in such matters, and if you have no royal pedigree, contact OUTTA CONTROL 0232-25426.*

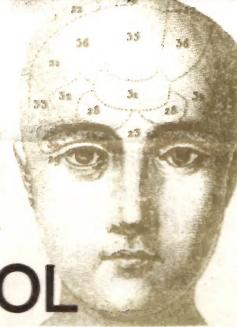
The make up of the organisation is almost completely middle class, with a high proportion of clergymen and women, and professionals in general. Professor McLaren who has opposed abortion in Birmingham and not allowed them in his area is a leading member.

The Northern Ireland Abortion Campaign and friends formed a picket handing out leaflets and information to the well heeled Malone Roaders, before the meeting started. We also attended the meeting and but for the persistent questioning of the speakers by NIAC, it would have been a much more boring and sanctimonious affair than it was. It was held in a Presbyterian meeting hall, the venue being changed at the last minute after the refusal of Queens University to allow them to use Queens Elms. It was a good choice of venue—the atmosphere toned in with the surroundings and at times it seemed that the assembled would burst into prayer and a few hymns. We were firstly lectured by Mrs. Scarisbrick, English chairperson of the organisation and then by three upstanding members of the Belfast community ( one

*continued on back page*

OUTTA CONTROL ... of the state, bosses, patriarchy, Schooling, churches .... As Anarchists we oppose the authority and exploitation of this society, and advocate one of FREE association and self-management. This paper comes out every 3-4 weeks and we welcome contributions, criticisms etc.

## BACK TO SCHOOL



Once you're sentenced at four or five you face 2 terms of 6 & 7 years to run consecutively. The first six aren't all that bad because you have not really a notion of what is happening. Not that you ever do. In the catholic school they really start to shovel it in — the religion bit, that is!

Many things go on which may not be so apparent ie. intense conditioning in sex roles, so by the time you're out many sexual prejudices are like second nature to you.

And of course the conditioning does not stop at sex roles. The whole system is reflected in your education, which is reinforced in your activities outside prison. Until it comes to a point where you can't think of life being any different from what it is. Then you are ready to take part in society —most likely on your knees building for the privileged, and then sweeping up after their destruction.

Of the two prisons I found grammar school the worst. I can sum up what it meant in 2 words — humiliation and torture. They tortured you into feeling insecure and unimportant. Of course the place was run by tyrannical, stupid, middle-class shites, the type that calls the provos terrorists, always looking for a pat on the head from the Master race, and who do their best to succeed in life by licking all the boots they can. Most of the people who attended my school were of the middle class, high IQ - low intelligence bracket. Liberal shites — that is what I had to put up with.

I never wanted to go to the place — why should I? Why the fuck don't you catch yourselves on? Why do you think you are at the place ... to end up as a wee cog in their machinery, and what do you get — fuck all!

Please note:

Do not cooperate with your school. Ignore all teachers when you see them outside school (they'll probably ignore you any way). Do not attend any school functions. Withdraw yourself from all school clubs. Do not sit up straight in class. Laugh at the teachers. Do not use the school library. When at dinners eat all you can and make as much a mess as you can. Do not buy any pens or pencils or any stationary —use old scraps. Wear your school uniform the wrong way round etc etc.

OR... Better still, just do what YOU want.

## LIFE SENTENCES FOR WOMEN?

On Wednesday 3rd September, LIFE an anti-abortion organisation, held its inaugral meeting in Belfast. The organisation has just been granted a room from the Belfast Welfare Society in Bryson House to run a counselling service. LIFE was formed in 1970 in Britain, its main aim being the repeal of the 1967 Abortion Act and opposition to abortion "root and branch". It has a long history of using emotional and horrifying tactics in its campaign. For example in the Midlands of England members of LIFE handed wreaths to women coming out of abortion clinics.

# A SLOW DEATH

Based on Margaretta D'Arcy's press conference after her release.

Enter Dr. Spence, a round, red faced man, his breathing heavy with the smell of drink. 'How are you this morning, ladies?' he chirps. There is no reply. And again, 'How are you ladies?' The 2 women lying on their beds in an empty cell, whose walls are covered in their own excreta and menstrual blood, don't respond. So he prods the 'ladies' and tries again.

Dr. Cole has a prosperous practice in Armagh town and regularly runs a surgery for the same 'ladies'. When they ask for treatment for heavy periods or cystitis, he gives them tablets and never examines them. You see its all in their minds. Women often exaggerate their pains and these women are particularly irrational. He tells them this.

Marie Mc Clennaghan has black blood coming out of her back passage. She was in prison before and developed a lump on her breast. On this occasion she has discovered another one on her other breast. The doctors have not examined her for either illness.

Dolores Price, whose sister was freed because of her severe illness and is now still in hospital, is herself like an old woman. Her young body has caved in, her face sunken, her limbs are like sticks. Like many of the women she shuffles rather than walks. She is so weak she can't attend mass.

Pauline Mc Laughlin became so dehydrated from anorexia nervosa that her heart collapsed and was rushed to the City Hospital. Here 8 pints of fluid were pumped into her body. Within 24 hours she was back in prison and now regularly 'receives' 8 pints of fluid. This stops her from dying.

Mary Doyle is surrounded not only by her 'natural' waste but has constant attacks of vomiting and diarrhea.

The building is old, so even when the cells are steam-hosed, the cracks in the walls and floors are still dirty. The variety of insects reemerge from the skirting boards. There is no ventilation. The windows are boarded up and the doors only opened ajar by screws, never wide. The smell is too unpleasant, you see. The little air there is seems to be absorbed by the excrement. In a 24 hour period there is only enough energy for 1½ hours. Even talking is exhausting.

There is not enough protein in the food to give energy, only enough to survive. If a meal is missed there is hardly enough energy reserves to keep going. The talk and day-dreams are about food. All the time. Though there is quantity there is no substance and 5 minutes later the hunger pains start. They stay most of the day.

The guardians of this institution take home £280 per week. There are male criminals from Crumlin Rd. and male officers constantly on the wing. All the screws are loyalist in persuasion and their job is to guard the republican protestors. There is 23 hours tension of petty and degrading confrontation.

Most of these young women depend on the letters from and visits with their families. They live on the hope and security of their families support. Consequently the censors periodically stop letters going to or arriving from this source. About one third of all letters never reach their destination. The distress is only another weapon of the Northern Ireland Office.

# Gone Fission

*Conservatives in competition  
Enclosing conservation  
Reeling from their rod of iron  
Their business is booming  
Their sharks are basking  
Lying money flapping on their banks  
Whaling in their 'Sun'  
News floats heavy water off our backs  
Spun lies along the same old lines  
We fall for their short-term prophets  
Gold and silver lures of our long-term loss  
Hooked on their headlines  
Barbed wire and caught  
Our air choked in their creeping weeds  
Of nuclear power plants of tragic  
mushrooms  
Before they drown us out  
In their wave of popular feelings  
We will not gasp our last  
Until we air our views--  
If their will be  
There will be nuclear  
But no more families  
When everyone's gone fission  
Will any body  
Any longer be?*

## The Law and the Peace People

The Peace People recently published a booklet called 'Rights and Responsibilities - A young person's guide to the Law and Emergency Legislation in Northern Ireland' by T. Foley and P. Graham.

When I first saw the booklet I thought 'Great! Its about time someone did something to let us know our rights'. On reading it I just felt angry. Fair enough it does let you know what the police and army can and cannot do (they can do whatever the fuck they like). Unfortunately the authors have a naive faith in the forces of law and (dis)order. This is shown in their treatment of the Diplock Courts. They say, 'The Judges also have a more difficult job to do, there are no juries permitted in many kinds of case ... and the judge is left to unravel the questions of the law (his normal job) and to make sense of the questions of fact (normally the job of the jury)'.

What I'd like to know is how the absence of a jury makes the judge's job harder when the evidence in 80% of the cases is based on 'confessions' and if the judge is a bit pissed off he can always find the suspect guilty (or just for the fun of it). The authors say that they are trying to make young people think about the law but they don't seem to have thought about it much themselves.

The booklet ends with a quotation from the Declaration of the Peace People. 'We want for our children, as we want for ourselves, our lives at home, at work and at play, to be lives of joy and peace'.

Hallelujah, Praise God and pass round the collection tray! But how are we going to achieve this?

Certainly not by tolerating the repressive legal system operating in Northern Ireland today and hoping that things will get better if we stick our heads in the sand and wait a few years.

We must abolish the control of politicians, bosses and priests and take matters into our own hands because only when we control our own lives can we be certain of living, 'lives of joy and peace'.

# THE PAPER WHICH INVITES ARSON!

If you happen to pick up a copy of the 'Sunday News' (Sept 14th), turn to page nine and happen across an article entitled "The Women who invite Rape", and read through it, you're entitled to do what your immediate reaction tells you to do. After all, due to the fire at the premise's earlier this year, there's only a fraction of the building left to go.

The article as a whole, written by an anonymous reporter by the name of Joan Boyd, with the aid of an RUC chief Inspector Jean Gallagher sets out to trivialise, condone, render irrelevant rape - blaming women for inviting it by walking in the streets, or going to the pubs on their own - socially unacceptable, how much safer they'd be locked up in a kitchen under the careful guidance of their husbands, who can legally (almost) beat them up at the first sign of dissent, rebellion against his authority as the owner (under law, a woman is considered the man's property - if a woman is raped, the husband may sue the rapist for damages against his 'property'), failure to comply with his desires, legalised rape marriage etc.

Official figures quoted say that the incidence of rape in N. Ireland has risen by 23% to 58 - "insignificant", according to the police - of course they don't take into account that 90% plus of all rapes are unrecorded, as most women are too terrified to report it to the police - to be put through the horrible experience of being treated like a piece of shit - laughed at, "sure you're not making it up, love" (Rape - every women's fantasy) - ha ha, degraded by police doctors, the final piece of advice being "Don't go out at night".

The RUC spokeswoman, and they made a great deal of it being a woman, makes some startling revelations -

"It's very difficult to give women advice on what to do in the event of an attack - it's not the case of women being jumped on at night, that kind of thing just doesn't happen" and

"....many more girls pretend that they were raped because they do not have an excuse for being out late and are frightened that their parents will be angry - it's not even laughable.....

It's no use just to criticize Joan Boyd as an individual as she's just another paid hack, pandering to the wishes of the features editors and ultimately the owner, Colonel Richardson.

The article, in the most subtle of ways tries to equate the allegedly "low" (on paper) of rapes with the rise of the paramilitaries - leading the reader to believe that, as well as dismissing the problem of rape, the people concerned are getting their kicks another way - what conclusion does that lead to?

Like the rest, this is just another piece of shit smeared onto a piece of paper, by another bought and paid hack to be accepted by some and unnoticed by others ---- who are they kidding?

WE WELCOME THE RECENT MARCHES ON THE SHANKILL AGAINST THE CUTS. BUT WATCH OUT FOR THE REPORTERS

THESE SCAMMERS ARE EXPERT IN THEIR IDEOLOGY, WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TAUGHT PRIMARILY TO BE OBEDIENT ANARCHISTS HAVE CONSISTENTLY EXPLOITED IN THESE SCAMMERS

EDUCATION IS ONE OF THOSE AREAS WHERE THE STATE & CHURCHES ARE EXPERT IN THEIR IDEOLOGY, WHERE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE TAUGHT PRIMARILY TO BE OBEDIENT & H-BLOCK CONTACT

FOR LATEST COLOUR VIDEO ON ARMAGH & H-BLOCK CONTACT  
THERE IS ANOTHER "ARMAGH PRISON" PAGE

# ARMAGH PICKET

On Saturday 30th Sept Women Against Imperialism staged a picket outside Armagh Jail to highlight the conditions of the protestors inside and also the ill health of Pauline McLaughlin, who is being refused any medical treatment because of her previous involvement with the protest.

Surprisingly there was a low turnout but that did not take away from the spirit of the picket as a whole.

A member of WAI outlined in brief a history of the protest for political status and the special case of Pauline McLaughlin. After this there were only two more short speeches — by Kevin Agnew, who was part of a contingent from South Derry, and by another WAI member. Then the picketers turned to chanting and singing which they hoped would be a great boost to the morale of the women inside.

During the picket the RUC spotted someone taking photos of them. They did not try to approach this person there and then, but waited until he had got on the bus and was about a mile outside Armagh. They demanded the photos under threat of arrest for so called 'collecting of information of use to terrorists' and also threatened to take everyone out onto the road and search them. So eventually the photos were handed over and the bus returned safely to Belfast.

One should note that information can be just as easily got from the press, TV etc, ie. photos of RUC members and other likely targets. So what the authorities were really afraid of was the photos being presented in a certain way to discredit the RUC.

# CARNSORE POINT

The 3rd Anti-Nuclear demonstration at Carnsore Point was quite unlike last years festivals in that it had a lot more 'political' content to it rather than the passive consumption of last year. As a demonstration it was a 'testing' of the anti-nuclear movement on questions like, support for it, solidarity within it, and new ideas coming from it.

## SUPPORT

Firstly attendance was down on last year, a lot of people didn't come because there was not a festival, some because they thought that the nuclear debate had been ended/delayed by the lack of 'public' determination by the government to steam roll ahead.

A lot of people attended because they knew Carnsore is still very much a threat, because Uranium prospecting is taking place all over the country, North and South at the expense of the EEC who are desperate to get 'their own' reserves, and because of the noxious industries springing up, where multi-national corporations are coming in to exploit the workers and if that is not bad enough to leave them decaying cripples along with the rest of the people who live in the immediate area of the factories.

## SOLIDARITY

The Anti-Uranium groups have placed themselves outside the Anti-Nuclear Movement in that they see the campaign as being solely one of No Uranium Mining without Carnsore was productive for those who did get involved — the knowledge that we can achieve anything if we put our minds to it, that people with no apparent skills can build a large village with toilets, water, food, etc... Maybe more importantly it gives people time to get to know each other, to know who you can trust — which in the event of direct action against the nuclear station at Carnsore is all too important.

PUBLICLY widening the issues to nuclear power, waste, bombs etc.

The Donegal Uranium Committee (being the largest) does not wish to work with a movement which appears to tell them how to conduct the campaign — they are however prepared to work WITH people, not for them.

Those who have been campaigning on the issue of noxious industries have tried to encourage the involvement of anybody who is interested — however groups and individuals within the movement have been slow or against widening the issues outside the nuclear cycle or else distrust working with Revolutionary Struggle who are initiating the campaign at present.

Splits and bad feelings do exist within the groups, individuals and organisations involved within the movement on a whole range of questions, on the campaign, strategy, etc. In short, the anti-nuclear movement is not a movement in the sense of a coherent force.

## NEW IDEAS

Because of this lack of support as well as partial support for certain issues, new ideas were not very forthcoming — if anything the splits, distrusts became more rooted, not exactly the mood for imagination and power.

Carnsore's future as a demonstration/festival/discussion weekend etc. must be seriously thought about before it takes place again next year, if it does. Carnsore has lacked discussions on what the problems are in the locality and how best to get our message over or get the support of local people. If construction at Carnsore starts it is imperative that local support is on our side — and it will be too late if we wait until the government decides to make its move.

Carnsore 80 also suffered from low involvement of those who attended. Of the 40 different workshops, exhibitions, slides, film etc, few people actually participated with most just 'being there'. Carnsore also gives the impression that it had to take place because it happened last year. The weekend event was not necessarily the best strategy available — it was the only ONE in that the same energy/commitment would not have been expended on any other activities.

This article is written by 2 visiting friends, one of whom was in Poland during the recent general strikes in the Gdansk region.

It is difficult to convey the complexities of the whole situation in such a short space, but we have some impressions and thoughts to share.

Poland has been dominated by Russian influence for decades with a totalitarian Party-State which controls all economic, political, and social life. In the last 10 years, as a reaction to a low standard of living and lack of freedom, there has erupted class confrontations and strikes. This summer, what started as a protest against meat prices, blossomed into a widespread strike movement for working class control over the economy and more freedom generally.

## Impressions

I arrived at the Lenin Shipyards the day the Premier came for the negotiations. The 16,000 workers were in permanent occupation and the situation was really lively. Here was the government forced to come to Gdansk to talk to the strike committee delegation of around 400 workers from all the factories in the region, the whole thing relayed over loudspeakers to the 2 or 3 thousand outside the factory. The hatred for the party was clear. Everything the Premier said was jeered at. The people were quite cynical to promises of reforms that he was offering, confident that their strength and unity would force him to concede their demands.

In drawing up their list of demands, the strike committee included demands for more than just themselves as industrial workers. As a result, intellectuals and students came to offer help and support, for example bringing a duplicator for the workers' strike bulletins. Private farmers brought their food to the shipyards rather than the state stores. People from all over came to Gdansk to show their support and to get information, as there was no radio, press, or telephone communication.

# POLAND STRIKES

Inside, the shipyards was a no-go area and we were very lucky to get passes. The decision-making body was instinctively intended to be a workers council of rotating delegates. However, the structure and communications between workers and their delegates often broke down, but no one seemed very alarmed by this because there was a total trust of the strike committee, as fellow workers, to speak for them.

The strongest attitude was of class unity against the Party, but a deliberate vagueness as to what alternatives they wanted. Because of their intense hatred of the Russian state and its lies, they believed the more subtle propaganda of the West. They were surprised when we told them how our government and trade unions didn't speak for the workers any more than theirs.

As an ex-Catholic, I was dismayed at the strength of Catholicism. Everyone took part in daily mass. Such religious traditions, long suppressed by the State, won the support of the majority of people in Poland, and was eagerly capitalised upon by the Church.

## Some Thoughts

Those involved in these struggles have won important victories, and gained a lot of confidence and experience of self-organising. This is just the beginning, and some of the contradictions are now plain — who should run society? What is the role of the Church? Is there any difference between Eastern and Western capitalism? Could their workers councils have seized control, if not for the threat of the Russian troops? What would happen if there were similar general strikes at the same time throughout the Eastern bloc . . . and the West? Will people, especially youngsters, take this opportunity to question and oppose their rigid family/sexual/religious upbringing? Will we learn from their unity and determination, and confront what oppresses us, which is a society increasingly totalitarian, crisis-ridden, and destructive?

The 1979 Annual Report of the N.I. Health and Social Services has just recently been published... dramatic headlines in the Belfast Telegraph, a few 'sensational' figures, and then forgotten. Media coverage. But what is actually going on? The state of our health, our bodies, remains undiscussed, a mystery, beyond our understanding.

Our health---our ability to enjoy ourselves mentally and physically---has become an industry, with profits and factories, institutions bureaucrats and statistics,...and somewhere mixed up in it all are the doctors who dispense, prescribe, and push the little pills and potions which supposedly cure our ills. Last year there were 12½ million prescriptions in N.I....8 for every person. A small decrease in the previous year, but overall, quacks have been pushing more and more drugs at an ever-increasing rate throughout the 70's. One in every 5 drugs prescribed in N.I. is "a preparation for the nervous system"....in other words, 20% of the concoctions from our local health industry are chemical potions, designed ---NOT TO IMPROVE OUR BODIES--- but to subdue our minds in order to continue our lives of distress. Truly, doped to cope. We are doped with nearly 800,000 tranquiliser prescriptions in 1979 (no decrease here) and nearly 450,000 'hypnotic' prescriptions (which includes barbiturates). So what?

Hypnotics are manufactured for 'rapid sedation'...to put us to sleep. They are similar to alcohol in many ways---addictive, tolerance develops all too easily, unpleasant withdrawal symptoms, suicidal feelings etc. etc. In short, a very unpleasant, anti-social pill to knock our bodies and minds out, so that the causes of our nervous state are never tackled. But 'barbs' work too well for the health industry....you cannot work, live, stay awake, drive, exist. Hence the recent medical moves to curb their expansion and shift towards tranquilisers--- the infamous valium, librium and friends which have more to do with share-prices and advertising than our well-being. Over ½ million prescribed doses in N.I. last year ---the majority for women diagnosed as being in states of 'anxiety', 'depression', or 'tension'.

*continued from front page*

of whom, the lawyer, had to be corrected on a point of law by members of NIAC)

We were appalled at the knowledge of one of the speakers who after 38 years at the City and Mater hospitals informed us that the risk of death to a woman was greater if she had an abortion than going to full term birth---statistics show quite the contrary, abortion when performed early in pregnancy (as most are) is safer than having tonsils removed. She also felt that with such marvelous technological achievements being made in the field of medicine no woman however serious and debilitating her illness should have an abortion, she could be kept alive until the birth, and the quality of her life afterwards was not looked into very closely by the speaker, nor was the current cuts in the National Health Service. The point is that it is marvelous that such technology is available to help those women who want to have children --- it is giving them more of a choice but LIFE are intent upon denying women the choice not to go through that experience and the problems that they would face in bringing up a child.

After the lectures, the audience were "allowed" to ask questions. It was at this time that the meeting began to heat up. LIFE made it clear that they opposed abortion in all cases. For them the right of the child outweighed that of the mother. In the case of rape for example LIFE thought the woman should have to carry the child to full term birth, then they said that most women would "learn to love" the child, and not visit the "sins of the father" on the child. If of course that didn't happen --- then LIFE would offer an adoption service. This was also their position on children found to have gross deformities and disabilities---though they forgot to add that these children would find it almost impossible in our society to be

Apart from the physical dependence, the bad side effects, they work by drilling into our central nervous system. Unlike barbiturates, they DO enable you to function as a zombie in to-day's modern society. Hence their increasing popularity with the establishment medical order. They are the perfect 'good citizen' drug for women (and men) who cannot cope with crazy housing, polluting-dangerous traffic, huge families and no facilities, aggressive husbands, inflation unemployment, army and police forces etc. etc. It's easy to see why tranquilisers are easy and cheap to get: it's easy to see why doctors prescribe so many so often; it's easy to see the important role of the drug manufacturer in our 'modern world'! It's not so easy to create the alternatives.

One of the many important points raised by the women's liberation movement is the importance and necessity of health-care and the lack of it from our doctored institutions. A knowledge of our bodies is the beginning of our health, and as an alternative to the industry of pills, bureaucrats, and commandments from the 'experts'. Our health will ultimately depend on a changed people-orientated environment, (not in the interests of commerce and carbon-monoxide), with people-orientated self-help clinics: on good and plentiful wholesome food (not expensive, packaged, harmful rubbish); with communities where people find it easy to care for each other (not lead the life of isolated, lonely individuals seeking relief through pills and alcohol).... Alongside these idyllic notions, we need to regain an understanding of the healing qualities of many of the plants that grow freely around our country-side.

Our health depends on the changes we make ourselves... not on the directives handed down by 'experts' with a pill mentality.

*To be taken as  
N.H.S.*  
Interesting figures have also come to light about the legal pushing of tranquilisers and barbiturates in the S. of Ireland. Like the North, the greater the level of unemployment, the more pills pushed....nearly twice as high in the cities as in the country-side, ....many more women than men...and again as in the 'north', nothing is being done about it....yet.

adopted and would be condemned to life in an institution.

What had LIFE done on the question of poverty and the single parent--- well that wasn't their province they said but Mrs. Scarisbrick added that £30.00 per week was "quite adequate" to fulfill the needs of a mother and child. She of course would know her husband being a Professor at Warwick University. This was also the woman who opposed the building of a nursery beside her home, presumably it might have brought the property values down!! In actual fact a single woman and child would receive around £21.00 if she were a householder, and her rent would be paid for her in full if it was within a prescribed amount.....Mrs Scarisbrick was misleading the audience who balked slightly at the prospect of living on £30.00 per week.

The audience was also misled as to the sort of accommodation that LIFE offered to women. Accommodation is for the duration of pregnancy and in *first few weeks* after birth. Their literature for Northern Ireland states that they are offering accommodation to *unmarried* women: they are completely unable to offer married women practical help, believing as they do in the "sanctity of the marriage bed".

LIFE were incapable of answering questions on sex education. LIFE begins at conception and they ignore what happened to get life there in the first place and the methods of contraception that would help to prevent unwanted pregnancies. Seeing as they do give their horror slide shows in schools (many teacher priests and nuns attended the meeting) one would think that this was a good opportunity to give young people contraceptive advice. Obviously they would lose most of their supporters, them being against contraception as well!!

What LIFE is fundamentally doing is trying to restrict the right of women to control their own bodies--- what it wants in England is the end of legal abortion and so a return to the backstreet and consequently more deaths and ill health to women as a result. In Northern Ireland they are intent on seeing that the Abortion Act of 1967 is not extended.

Despite wide advertising in the local press and three TV and radio appearances LIFE could only muster an audience of 200 on Wednesday---but that shouldn't make us think that they are no threat. Those 200 represented some of the most powerful people in society here---the Church, the Law and the Medical Establishment. As such they need careful watching and opposition if abortion is ever to be legalised here. Women who believe that we have the right to choose whether to have an abortion should come forward. We need a strong pro-choice campaign.

**HAVE YOU  
OR A FRIEND  
EVER USED A  
CONTRACEPTIVE  
THAT DIDN'T  
WORK?**

In N.Ireland you would have to continue the pregnancy, go to England to obtain an abortion or risk a backstreet abortion. A Conference on Abortion has been organised for Sat. 11th October 10:30 a.m. Mc Mordie Hall Queens Students Union

NIAC meets every Wednesday. Details from the Womens Centre, telephone 43363.